

Amendment to the Claims

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Original) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces; and

a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures arranged in a pattern.

Claim 2. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein a proximal surface of the elastomeric gel layer is substantially planar.

Claim 3. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer is directly applied to the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 4. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures have a generally circular cross-section.

Claim 5. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the pattern of apertures comprises an array of equally spaced apertures.

Claim 6. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer is disposed only about a central portion of the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer comprises a cross-linked silicone gel.

Claim 8. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 7, wherein the apertures are generally uniform in size.

Claim 9. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer penetrates surface irregularities along the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 10. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 7, wherein the silicone gel includes a skin treatment agent selected from the group consisting of aloe vera and petroleum jelly.

Claim 11. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer includes at least one additive agent selected from the group consisting of: anti-fungal agents, anti-bacterial agents, hemostatic agents, disinfectant agents, deodorizing agents, anesthetic agents, angiogenesis agents and analgesic agents.

Claim 12. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the pattern of apertures of the elastomeric gel layer is defined as varying in number per unit area relative to their position to a central axis of the absorbent core.

Claim 13. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures vary in size according to their location relative to a position of each of said apertures to a central axis of the absorbent core.

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the number of apertures per unit area corresponding to a central portion of the absorbent core is greater than at portions corresponding to the absorbent core located outside the central portion.

Claim 15. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures vary in size.

Claim 16. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 15, wherein the pattern of the apertures is defined as arrays of alternating apertures of at least two different sizes.

Claim 17. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric gel layer has regions of varying thickness.

Claim 18. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises a hydrophilic polyurethane foam with a plurality of open pores along the proximal side thereof.

Claim 19. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 18, wherein the elastomeric gel layer bridges said open pores of the absorbent core.

Claim 20. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 18, wherein the elastomeric gel layer only extends into surface irregularities of the absorbent core.

Claim 21. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern irrespective of the pattern of holes of the absorbent core.

Claim 22. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 21, wherein the apertures of the elastomeric gel layer have a generally uniform shape.

Claim 23. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 21, wherein the apertures of the elastomeric gel layer are substantially equally spaced from one another.

Claim 24. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern, said apertures only extending along the proximal surface of the absorbent core.

Claim 25. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 24, wherein the apertures of the elastomeric gel layer have a generally uniform shape.

Claim 26. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 24, wherein the apertures of the elastomeric gel layer are substantially equally spaced from one another.

Claim 27. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a facing layer consisting a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel, the facing layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern irrespective of the pattern of holes of the absorbent core.

Claim 28. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a facing layer consisting a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel, the facing layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures substantially equally spaced from one another and having a generally uniform shape.

Claim 29. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel layer disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core and at least partially filling a plurality of the holes of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern irrespective of the pattern of holes of the absorbent core.

Claim 30. (New) The wound dressing according to claim 29, wherein the elastomeric gel layer consists of a cross-linked silicone.

Claim 31. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces, the absorbent core including a pattern of holes defined along the proximal surface thereof; and

a facing layer consisting a discrete skin adherent, elastomeric gel directly disposed along the proximal surface of the absorbent core, said elastomeric gel layer having a plurality of through extending apertures provided in a pattern irrespective of the pattern of holes of the absorbent core.